



MEMO OF OPPOSITION
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March 10, 2023

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Bill No. 1178: AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT PAID SICK DAYS
Bill No. 6668: AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PAID SICK DAYS
STATUTES

The Lumber Dealers Association of Connecticut, which represents independent lumber and building material dealers, manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and other associated businesses in the state of Connecticut and employs more than 35,000 Connecticut residents, strongly opposes bills 6668, 1178. It is another mandate on businesses that increases costs, decreases productivity, and ultimately increases costs of goods to consumers.

This legislation would significantly expand the state's paid sick leave law to require all employers to provide one hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked by an employee and increase the number of hours an employee may accrue. The LDAC membership believes offering paid sick leave and other employee benefits should be an independent business' decision and should not be further mandated by the state.

Under the proposed bill, the expanded sick leave benefit would be applied to all employees. For our members, who are still adapting to the economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill would add another costly mandate to the bottom lines of small businesses that are already under great strain.

Furthermore, the July 1st effective date provides grossly insufficient time for any business to prepare for this proposed new mandate and the increased employee benefit tracking required. What some describe as minor, administrative record keeping requirements, are, in real practice, an additional financial and time hurdle that businesses must adapt to with inadequate notice.

LDAC wants to protect our employees during tough times. In fact, LDAC members pride themselves on offering paid leave to their employees, as well as many other benefits, including vacation time, health insurance, and retirement savings programs.

Our independent, family-owned, and operated businesses do not provide benefits because of any mandate, but to recruit and retain quality employees. LDAC members value our employees and will continue to support them; however, Connecticut continues to adopt mandates that make it harder and more expensive to do business in the state.

We ask that you take the considerations of small businesses seriously, protect our industry and oppose this legislation.